



PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM BURGLARY **A GUIDE**

Lycetts

Insurance Brokers
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Burglary unfortunately is one of the most common crimes whether you live in a busy, bustling city or the quiet, remote countryside. One of the few positives of lockdown was the decline in burglary numbers. But as restrictions lifted and many people returned to work or took holidays, burglary numbers have risen once again.

It's important to remember that almost half of burglaries are opportunistic crimes that are easily prevented. Our guide will give you simple tips to help protect your home from break-ins.

PREVENTION IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN CURE.

WHAT MAKES YOUR PROPERTY ATTRACTIVE TO A BURGLAR?

These are the give-aways that your home security is not quite what it should be and will make your home an easy target.

1. **Windows without closed curtains or blinds**
2. **Poor locks**
3. **Old door handles**
4. **Unlocked doors and open windows**
5. **Dark unlit back gardens**
6. **Fencing that's style over substance**
7. **Alerting that you're away or out on social media**

Now you know what burglars look for, you can make many simple improvements to your home security with our useful and practical guide.

TOP 10 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE

1. VISUAL AND SOUND DETERRENTS

Which? Revealed that 71 per cent of burglars are put off by alarm systems displayed on a home exterior.

A house alarm with a bell box, smart 24/7 security devices, CCTV systems and even a video doorbell can be a great way of ensuring that your home is safer and secure from unwanted intruders.

Improving the security of your front door is paramount.

You should install a door chain to add protection against opportunists and letter plate restrictors can help prevent letterbox fishing.



2. GET LOCKED UP



‘Lock snapping’ where an intruder gains entry by breaking the cylinder lock in your door, is a common way of illegal entry. Yale recommend checking that your cylinder is rated at TS007, 3-star Kitemark so that it meets the standards set out by the BSI.

Never leave door or window keys in the lock, even when you are at home.

3. MAKE YOURS A GATED PROPERTY

Make sure there are no areas of weakness in your gates - front and rear. Check they are locked every time you leave the house, and never leave keys in the lock. Ideally, hinges and locks should be galvanised to provide added protection against rust and positioned where an intruder can't lean over to open. Electric gates are also an ideal deterrent.



4. LET NATURE DEFEND YOUR PROPERTY

A fence is good, but a fence with thorny or spiky plants on top is even better. 'Defensive' plants such as Berberis, Hawthorn or roses can help create an impenetrable barrier to burglars.



5. MAKE A NOISE

Thieves like to work in darkness and silence. Anything that makes noise such as a gravel path will deter thieves. Or an alert and loud dog!



6. LET THERE BE LIGHT

Leaving a light on at night is an old-school burglar deterrent but it works!

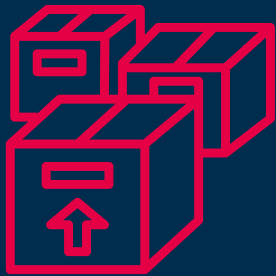
You should also consider smart lighting that allows the user to switch lights on and off remotely via tablets and phones. They can be programmed to go on and off at specific times during the day or while you are on holiday.

You should also install motion sensors at the front and back of your property.



7. STAY HOME FOR DELIVERIES

Deliveries to an empty home is a giveaway that nobody is home if they are left outside so always try to schedule deliveries to arrive when you are at home.



8. BE NEIGHBOURLY

Ask neighbours to put your bins out. Bins that don't move is another give-away that nobody is at home.



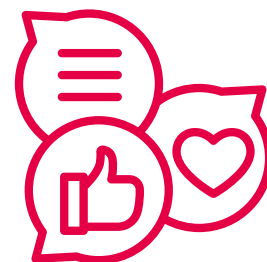
9. CANCEL THE MILKMAN

Don't forget to cancel any subscription menu boxes or milk deliveries so that they are not left mounting up on your doorstep as another sure sign that your home is empty.



10. DON'T BE TOO SOCIAL

Tell trusted friends and neighbours when you are going on holiday or out for an event, but don't shout about it on social media.



If you would like a complimentary review of your insurance needs, highlighting any gaps or unnecessary cover, please contact us:

0191 232 1151

lycetts.co.uk

info@lycetts.co.uk

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